ternative broadgauge railway line between Guwahati and Dibrugarh via Nagaon, Jorhat and Sibsagar in Assam;

(b) if so, by when the construction of this line is likely to be completed;

(c) by when the Bhomoraguri railway bridge over the Brahmaputra is likely to be completed; and

(d) what progress has been made in the construction of the railway bridge over the Brahmaputra at Jogighopa?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) A preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic survey has recently been completed for an alternative BG railway route from Guwahati to Dibrugarh connecting Nowgong, Jorhat and Sibsagar. Another survey for straight conversion of the existing MG line from Gauhati to Dibrugarh via Tinsukia is in Progress. A decision about extension of BG line beyond Gauhati will be taken after the survey report for straight conversion is also received and scrutinised, subject to availability of resources.

(c) Only a road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Bhomoraguri near Tezpur is being constructed. The bridge is expected to be completed by July, 1987.

(d) Preliminary investigations for the Rail-cum-road bridge over river Brahmaputra at Jogighopa have been completed. Detailed designs are how ever, in progress. Within the limited availability of resources, construction of the BG railway line from Jogighopa to Gauhati has been taken up from the Gauhati end. Construction of the bridge proper will be taken up after completing the detailed design etc. subject to availability of resources.

New trains linking the North-Eastern Region with Delhi

117. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) how many new trains have recently been started to link the North-Eastern region with Delhi;

(b) whether any superfast or Rajdhani Express trains have been introduced;

(c) whether the Assam Mail has been withdrawn and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is a fact that almost all the coaches of the Tinsukia Mail are damaged and are in bad shape and if so, what remedial steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) (a) to (c) To meet the demand for a superfast service between North East region and Delhi, 921/922 North East Express has been provided between New Delhi and Guwahati with very limited stoppages in lieu of erstwhile 85/86 Assam Mail from 1-4-1986.

(d) No, Sir.

Opening of a Central University in Assam

118. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish a Central University in Assam; and

(b) whether the site for the same has been decided upon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.